(g) In the pricing study of any bulk drug, including those mentioned the role of the — Member (Finance), BICP is that of a Member of the BICP (and not as Chairman, DPRC Sub-Committee) and reports based on such studies are approved by the Bureau in its meetings before submission to the Government.

Regulating the prices of drugs

681. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Editorial captioned 'break the deadly nexus' appeared in Indian Express on 25th October, 1991;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the charges of failure to regulate prices;

(c) what are the names of formulations and drugs where prices have been increased by the manufacturers without the clearance of concerned authority; and

(d) what are the names of drugs where price increase has been sanctioned during this year without evaluating the actual claims of cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Sir, Government has seen the editorial captioned "break the deadly nexus" which appeared in Indian Express on 25.10.1991. It is not correct to say that the Government has failed to regulate prices.

(b) In a situation of rising costs of inputs and changes in exchange rate of rupee certain amount of increase in the prices of medicines is inevitable.

(c) As per sub-paragraph 9(3) of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987, the retail price of a formulation once fixed by the Government shall not be increased by any manufacturer except with the prior approval of the Government. No instance of violation of this provision has come to the notice of the Government in the recent past. As and when any such violation comes to the notice of the government, action is taken against the defaulters as per the relevant law.

(d) There are more than 50 Scheduled bulk drugs whose prices have been revised upwards by the Government on *suo-moto* basis to allow for increase in input costs on account of Exchange Rate adjustment. A few amongs them are Rifampicin, Ethambutol HCL, INH, Pyrazinamide, Chloroquine Phosphate, Ibuprofen, Insulin, Dexamethasone etc.

Prices of price controlled medicines

682. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Editorial captioned "BREAK THE DEADLY NEXUS" appeared in Indian Express dated 25th October, 1991;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that prices of price controlled medicines have gone up by 75 per cent to 150 per cent;

(d) if so, what is the present price of Penidure vials 6, 12 and 24 lakh strength, Resochin Tablets 12 pack, Crys 4 Pencillin Injection one dose and Baralgon Injection and what was the price of each before DPCO 1987 and what is the percentage of increase;

(e) whether it is a fact that Government are also monitoring the prices of price decontrolled medicines;

(f) whether the price of medicines gone up by more than 100 per cent after DPCO, 1987; and

(g) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to contain the price hike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The prices of scheduled formulations are fixed under DPCO, 1987 in accordance with a formula and fixed norms